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July, 2005



THE IRON SOLDIER

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

Camp Buehring, Kuwait

Iron Brigade “Rolls On” to Kuwait

By Capt. Alfred A. Smith, BDE PAO

Camp Buehring, Kuwait

-When Spec. Melissa Lusi stepped out of the airplane at the Kuwait City International airport, she realized that the next year would be very physically challenging. “It feels like a blow-dryer is blowing hot air at your face all of the time,” said Lusi.

The 2/28th Brigade Combat Team Soldiers arrived in Kuwait to a steamy 115 degree day on



Spec. Melissa Lusi, a resident of Canonsburg, Pa., is one of the first Iron Soldiers of the 2/28th BCT to set boots on ground at the Kuwait City International Airport, Kuwait, on the afternoon of June 26, 2005. The Iron Soldiers arrived to a temperature of 115 degrees Fahrenheit. “It feels like a blow-dryer is blowing hot air at your face all the time,” said Lusi.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

June 26, 2005. The entire flight which began in Gulfport, Mississippi and ended at Kuwait, took over 20 hours to complete.

“Everyone has arrived here safely and the morale of the Iron Soldiers is at a new high,” said Deputy Commander of the 2/28th BCT Col. Regis Cardiff. “Our mission in Iraq is to defeat the insurgency in order to create a secure and stable environment for the Iraqi people. The 2/28th BCT is a highly trained organization ready to accomplish a very important mission,” Cardiff said.

The Iron Brigade spent a few weeks at Camp Buehring, Udairi, Kuwait, prior to heading north into the Al Anbar Province, Iraq. Camp Buehring is being utilized as a staging area where the Iron Soldiers will conduct mandated Combined Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) training to include weapons training and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) training. Camp Buehring gave the 2BCT Soldiers the opportunity to acclimate themselves to high temperatures and the Spartan-like living conditions that they will face during the next year.

How did the Iron Soldiers adjust to Kuwait? If you ask most of the 2/28th BCT Soldiers how they liked Camp Buehring, they will tell you that if it were not for the extreme heat and blowing sand, it's not a bad place. The sleeping tents, and most of the internal work areas are air conditioned, the food is exceptionally good and plentiful, and the laundry is free of charge. Camp Buehring offers to the Soldiers the following: a free internet cafe, fully equipped gym, PX, Burger King, Subway, Pizza Inn, Coffee Shop, and doughnut shop. Additionally, the Morale Wel-

fare and Recreation tent provides activities such as, concerts, movies, ping pong, video games etc... well you get the picture, Camp Buehring is not so bad.

Regardless of any amenities the Soldiers are provided, the Iron Soldiers have come a long way to perform a very important mission in Iraq. “We have worked long and hard in preparation, and are eager and ready to begin this mission. Our Soldiers are focused on the mission by conducting last minute training drills, maintenance checks, and equipment preparation,” said Brigade HHC Commander Capt. Steven G. Fischer, a native of Washington, Pa.

The 2/28th BCT is comprised of Soldiers from over 30 states to include the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. All of the Iron Brigade Soldiers have arrived safely in Kuwait. The Iron Soldiers were deployed in January 2005 to Camp Shelby, Mississippi, in order to train for their follow-on mission to Iraq in support of “Operation



2/28th BCT Soldiers train with their individual weapons, during weapons familiarization training outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on June 28, 2005. All Soldiers must undergo weapons training as part of their Coalition Forces Land Component Command (CFLCC) requirement prior to heading into Iraq.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

Iraqi Freedom.” The 2/28th BCT has been activated for an approximate 18 month rotation. They have completed 6 months of their deployment and are prepared to “ROLL ON” and complete 1 year in Iraq

SEE AND READ THE IRON SOLDIER IN VIVID COLOR AT <http://ironSoldiers.army.mil>

A MESSAGE FROM IRON 6



COL (P) John L. Gronski
2/28 BCT Commander

On 22 July 1944, the 28th Infantry Division entered WWII by landing at Normandy and then fighting across northern France into Germany. Now, almost 61 years to the day, the 28th Infantry Division is again going to war; this time in Iraq. The 28th is sending the 2nd Brigade Combat Team specifically task organized for the mission with Soldiers from across America. Again, we fight in order to keep our nation secure, and in order to help freedom flourish in an emerging democracy.

I am proud of the discipline, teamwork, aggressiveness, and can do spirit exhibited by the Iron Soldiers of the 2 BCT. We will succeed! The 2nd BCT will unleash all of its might to defeat the insurgents, while treating the Iraqi people with dignity and respect. The 2 BCT will help the Iraqi Security Forces reach and sustain a capability to maintain a safe and stable environment.

The Soldiers of the 2nd BCT will uphold the traditions of the long line of brave Soldiers who have fought courageously for the good of our nation. I am proud of every Soldier, Marine, Sailor, and Airman in the Iron Brigade.

Iron Soldiers!

MONSTER AIRPLANE by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciottoli

Camp Shelby, MS - When the designers of the AN-124 Condor got together, surely they never dreamed of their monster aircraft carrying large amounts of war material over the United States. That vision has come true recently.



The Russian AN-124 "Condor", one of the largest planes in the world, standing on the airfield in Gulfport, MS

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciottoli

What you should know is that the Condor was designed by the Soviet Union. Remember them from the Cold War? So the war material would have belonged to the Red Army. At that time nothing would have made the designers happier than to see the Condor on an American airfield unloading its payload.

Well recently the designers got their wish... sort of. The Soviet Union has broken apart. Russia, the largest of the former Soviet republics, retained most of the military hardware and most of the AN-124s. However the Russian Army had very little money so they sold the Condors to private companies for civilian use.

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team

(2BCT) hired one of those contractors to haul their most critical equipment to Iraq. What would have taken around 30 trips for a C-130 Hercules, the Condor was able to do in just seven trips across the Atlantic.

The Condor is almost double the size of the C-130. If you were to take the wings off of a C-130 you could literally drive it through a Condor.

Above the large cargo area is a passenger compartment that can hold up to 30 passengers. The passenger compartment had comfortable seats and tables. It also had electrical outlets so the passengers could plug in their laptops.

The crew were all Russian and therefore a few Russian newspapers and magazines were laying around. Very interesting if you know how to read Cyrillic.



The Russian Crew assist an American forklift operation in placing a connex inside the Condor.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciottoli

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MAILING ADDRESSES FOR THE IRON SOLDIERS

Ar-Ramadi

Soldiers Name
2/28th BCT
Camp Ar-Ramadi
APO, AE 09362-9997

Habbaniyah / Taqaddum

Soldiers Name
2/28th BCT
Camp Taqaddum
APO, AE 09381

Al Asad

Soldiers Name
2/28th BCT
Camp Al Asad
APO, AE 09333

Please take into consideration, when mailing perishables: mail could take up to two weeks to reach Soldiers.

REENLISTMENT: More than just the money!

by Capt. Alfred A. Smith - PAO

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait - One of the main reasons that Sgt. 1st Class Shane Cole volunteered for "Operation Iraqi Freedom," is to assist the Iron Soldiers with any questions they may have about retention and to provide information to them about the different career options available to them.

Sgt. 1st Class Shane Cole is a 79T, Recruiting and Retention NCO, from HHC 2nd BDE, and has been recruiting since August of 1998. He spent the first 6 years supporting C Co. 1-110th IN (M) in Waynesburg, Pa., until June of 2004, when he moved his office to Washington, Pa., to assist with the recruiting/retention efforts for HHC 2nd BDE.

"I truly enjoy what I do. To have the kind of impact on someone's life or career and to see them grow from their experience is great," Cole said. Retention is the best part of the according to



Sergeant First Class David E. Vair, a resident of Lyons, Indiana made history on July 11, 2005, as the first Iron Soldier from the 2/28th BCT to reenlist in a Combat Zone. Vair, a 21B - Combat Engineer who is Ranger qualified, is a member of the 135th Engineer Co., from Lawrenceville, IL. His company has been attached to the 876th Engineer Battalion 2/28th BCT.

Photo by Spc. Sam Kerschner

program

- National Guard Scholarship Program
- Federal Tuition Assistance Program

"I'm happy to finally get started on this mission, and I'm happy to start this new 6 year reenlistment with \$15,000 in my pocket," said Sgt. 1st Class David E. Vair, a resident of Lyons, Indiana and currently attached to the 876th Engineer Battalion. "I have 13 years in and I want to be in the Guard and do my 20," added Vair.

It's not just about the money, for some Soldiers that were pulled from the Individual Ready Reserve, it's about starting over again and continuing with their Military Career. "I wished I would have never left the mili-

tary, I just never realized how much I missed it and how many opportunities are available to me," said Capt. Robert Rowland, a resident of Arlington Texas, and Comptroller for the 2/28th BCT. "Soldiers like to be around fellow Soldiers, there is a camaraderie that keeps you coming back and it's something that many Soldiers do not want to lose," Rowland said.

The Army has fallen short in meeting its recruiting goal by 18 percent during Fiscal year 2005, but has done a much better job in retaining existing Soldiers and meeting the retention goal, according to the Department of Defense.

Sgt. 1st Class Shane Cole, plans to be a very visible individual over the course of the next year. His main office will be in Ramadi, but he plans to make the circuit and provide information to all of the Iron Soldiers that are currently serving their country in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

If you should have any questions for Sgt. 1st Class Shane Cole, he can be reached at shane.cole@us.army.mil.

"Soldiers like to be around fellow Soldiers, there is a camaraderie that keeps you coming back and it's something that many Soldiers do not want to lose."

Capt. Robert Rowland of Arlington, Texas

Cole but unfortunately back in the states recruiting is the main focus. When the word came out that the 2/28th BCT would be deploying with a Retention NCO, Cole was one of the first to

throw his name in the hat and volunteer.

"Right now is a great time to reenlist not only because of the tax free money that is available but because of the other career opportunities that are available to the Soldiers," said Cole. Military career changes such as capitalizing on the current direct commission and warrant officer packets, receiving increased educational benefits or switching to active duty are some of the options that are currently out there.

Some of current opportunities that are available to reenlisting Soldiers in Kuwait and Iraq that are not available back in the U.S.A. are as follows:

- Up to \$15,000.00 reenlistment/extension bonus cash
 - Tax Free bonuses
 - All MOSs are eligible for bonuses in theater
 - Increased Montgomery GI Bill Incentives
 - Montgomery GI Bill Kicker Incentives
- Additional opportunities available to all Soldiers regardless of location are:
- \$18,000.00 Student Loan repayment



Son, We live in a world with walls, and those walls need to be guarded by men with guns!

2ND BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM IRON SOLDIERS IN ACTION



Brigade CSM, Horace Pysher, finds a new friend in the Kuwaiti Desert.
Photo by: 1st Lt. Jacques Smith



Coalition Commander, Gen. Casey (right), wishes the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, good luck on its upcoming mission through 2BCT Commander, Col. John L. Gronski (Left).
Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciotoli

Lt. Col. Loris Lepri, Commander of HHC 1-110th Infantry Battalion from Mount Pleasant, Pa., takes a minute to admire the beautiful mural that was painted on a Jersey Barrier at Camp Buehring. Sgt. Brandon Kopp painted the mural as a lasting legacy to the Soldiers of the 1-110th, 2/28th BCT, that mobilized through Camp Buehring prior to heading into Iraq in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom 05-06."

Picture by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



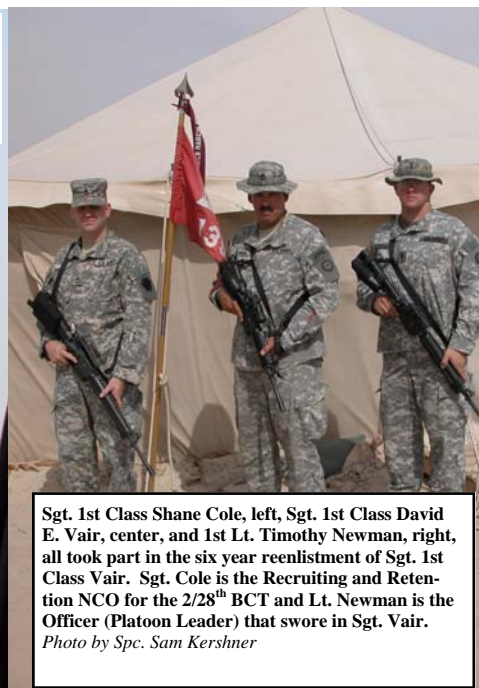
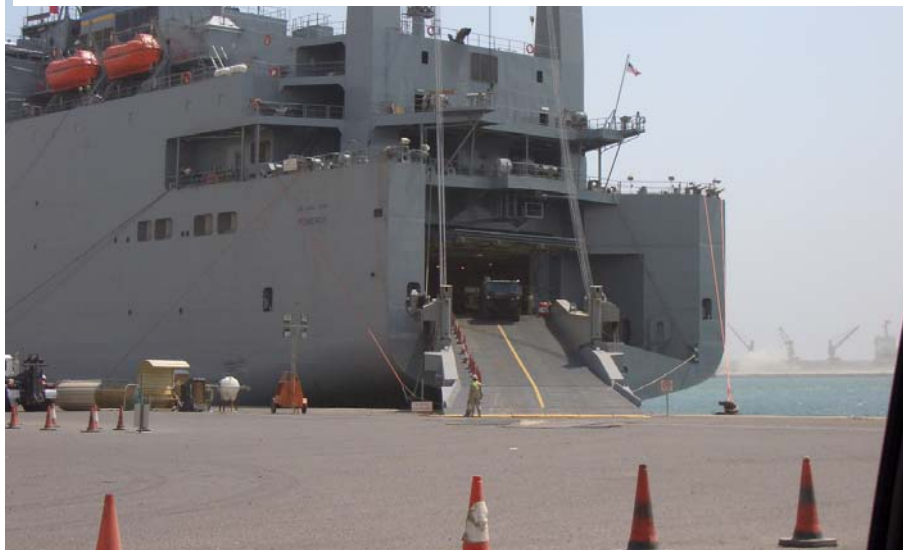
A Soldier from the 1-110 waves goodbye as he leaves for Iraq from Kuwait.
Photo by Spc. Kimberly Calvert



Send your pics to SFC Scary (Richard.Scariaciotoli@us.army.mil) Include a brief description and who took the pic.

Under the watchful eye of Maj. Mathew J. Hunn and his Brigade 4-Shop staff, over 1,400 vehicles were shipped to Kuwait. The long haul started from the rails at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to Beaumont, Texas and finally ending up at the port waters of Kuwait. The ships used were, the Palmaroy, and the Resolve. Over 250 Iron Soldiers assisted as port support for this mission.

Photo By: Maj. Mathew J. Hunn



Sgt. 1st Class Shane Cole, left, Sgt. 1st Class David E. Vair, center, and 1st Lt. Timothy Newman, right, all took part in the six year reenlistment of Sgt. 1st Class Vair. Sgt. Cole is the Recruiting and Retention NCO for the 2/28th BCT and Lt. Newman is the Officer (Platoon Leader) that swore in Sgt. Vair.

Photo by Spc. Sam Kershner



Soldiers from the 1-109th make final preparations before they convoy into Iraq.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli



Former 28th ID commander Major General Pudlowski eats with Soldiers in Kuwait.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Richard Scaricaciottoli



Chaplain Maj. Pete Lawson gives a small service prior to Soldiers moving out in a convoy from Kuwait to Iraq.

Photo by Spc. Sam Kershner

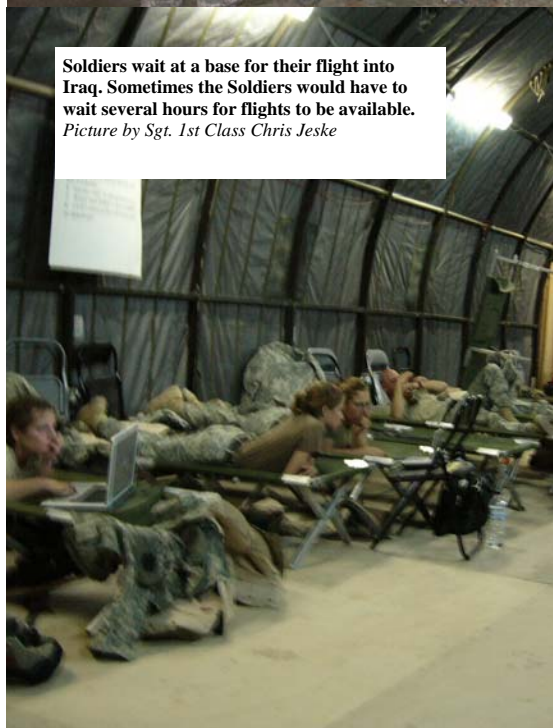


2BCT Iron Soldiers at Camp Shelby Mississippi, load their gear in preparation for the move out to Kuwait on the morning of June 25, 2005.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

The Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Major General Jessica L. Wright, thanks the Iron Soldiers of the 2-222 FA from Utah, for their great contribution and bids them a safe journey. The 2/28th BCT, which is comprised of soldiers from over 30 states, flew to Kuwait in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Photo by Capt. Darryl W. Bertani



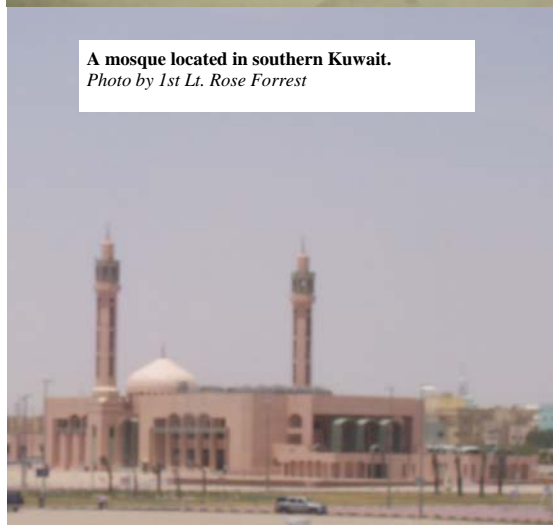
Soldiers wait at a base for their flight into Iraq. Sometimes the Soldiers would have to wait several hours for flights to be available.

Picture by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Jeske



Sgt. 1st. Class Christopher Tuchtenhagen a resident of Litchfield, Minnesota is weighed with his boarding equipment to assure that he does not exceed the 350 pound established weight limit, prior to flying to Kuwait on June 25, 2005.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



A mosque located in southern Kuwait.

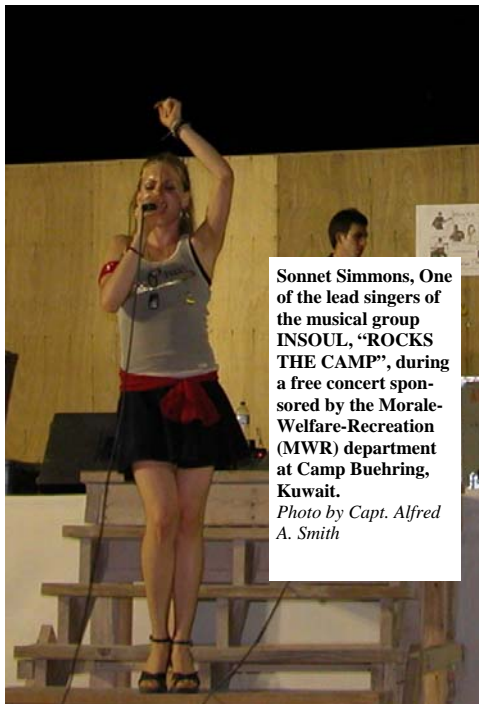
Photo by 1st Lt. Rose Forrest

It has become a custom for units to paint a Jersey Barrier depicting their unit upon the completion of their mobilization at Camp Buehring, Kuwait. The detailed paintings serve as a lasting memory to other units that will follow as they prepare for their mission in the Middle East.

Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith



Send your pics to SFC Scary (Richard.Scaricaciottoli@us.army.mil) Include a brief description and who took the pic.



Sonnet Simmons, One of the lead singers of the musical group INSOUL, "ROCKS THE CAMP", during a free concert sponsored by the Morale-Welfare-Recreation (MWR) department at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.
Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

2/28th BCT Nebraska Soldiers of A/1-167 Cavalry, inspect their equipment prior to training with their assigned weapons, during weapons training in Kuwait on June 26, 2005.

Photo By: Capt. Alfred A. Smith



The Camp Buehring Dining Facility in Kuwait decorated for the 4th of July
Photo by Capt. Alfred A. Smith

A road sign written in Arabic and English on a highway inside Kuwait. Most signs on the building inside Kuwait are written in English and Arabic as well.

Photo by MSG Dennis W. Lindsey



2 BCT Public Affairs Officer Capt. Alfred A. Smith poses with an Officer from the Japanese Army during weapons training outside Camp Buehring, Kuwait, on June 28, 2005. American and Japanese Soldiers make up two of the many Coalition Forces training for a very important mission in Iraq.

Soldiers from the 876th Engineers riding in the back of a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter. The soldiers were heading from Kuwait into Iraq.

Photo by 1st Lt. Rose Forrest



THE SAFETY CORNER

WAR IS DANGEROUS ENOUGH



Chief Warrant Officer 3
Joseph Witmer
Brigade Safety Officer

As we turn the corner to our next and most important transition time we have to look back and see where this Brigade has come from. In January of 2005, this Brigade was activated with one not so simple goal, "do our job superbly and come home safely." Together this Brigade has weathered Tornados and the TSB at Camp Shelby, MS. We have also defeated the enemy of time and fatigue at NTC. Teams of us have been dedicated to prepping and loading all the equipment we have so we can meet our next challenge. We have done all of this with a minimum of injuries and accidents. This Brigade has broken Safety records at NTC and received the admiration of Generals to Privates for the standards set.

Now we move forward once again. Here at Camp Buehring we have successfully completed an intense and comprehensive inspection from the Environmental Officer, Safety Officer, and Fire Marshal. As usual, we have gotten nothing but kudos from these inspectors. Thanks to all of you, we have once again put the mission first and done it in the safest manner possible.

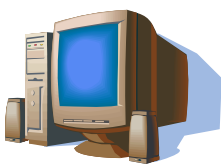
Crossing the berm into Iraq requires that we take everything we have learned to date and execute our mission. Some would say that combining this many states of units from the National Guard, Reserves, Air Force, Marines and Iraq Security Force is too much for us to handle. I would argue, that that is exactly what makes us the best at what we do. Time and time we have shown what this Brigade is capable of doing. As your Brigade Safety Officer, I am proud to join you as we aggressively move out to defeat the Insurgency and help this country enjoy the rights we as a nation hold so dear. The ability for this Brigade to conduct operations while evaluating both tactical and accidental risks is what will make us successful in this next transition. Keep using the Risk Management Program to keep your Soldiers safe!

This next step does require one more move into a new home. And once again you will have the pleasure of my company as I complete yet another set of inspections in your rooms, work areas and motor pools. It does not matter what FOB you are located at, I will be there to support you. One of our goals will be to improve the FOBs and it will take the entire team to make this happen. With the help of the Mayor's Cell, our Engineers and all of you, we will prioritize the hazards and get them fixed in each of the FOBs.

It has been said over and over that, "The NCO Corps is the Back-Bone of the Army." It is time for the NCOs of the 2/28 BCT to step up and prove that you are second to none. The Brigade Commander has directed that we not lose a single Soldier to an accident. My goal is, "No serious accidents or injuries." The NCOs will lead and the Soldiers they lead will follow. Your character is what will make the difference.

INTRODUCING: IronSoldiers.army.mil By Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scaricaciottoli

One of the most important missions of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team (2BCT) is to keep the families back home informed.



"I think it is harder on our families than it is on us while we are away. We know what is happening here while our friends and families sit at home and worry about what is going on. The more we can keep them in the know, the less they will worry," said 1st Sgt. Paul Dunlap of the 2nd Brigade Headquarters Company.

One of the greatest tools available to accomplish that mission is the internet. The 2BCT always had a good and informative internet site but it did have some limitations. One example is the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or web address. The original site name was too complicated and almost impossible to remember. The new site ([http://](http://ironsoldiers.army.mil)

ironsoldiers.army.mil) is much simpler. The hardest thing to remember about the new URL is not to type "www" before ironsolider.

"We wanted a name that both the Soldiers and their loved ones could easily remember so they could access information anywhere they find a com-

puter," said Capt. Alfred A. Smith, Brigade Public Affairs Officer.

The site is controlled by the Public Affairs Office and is always looking for input to make the site better. If there are any questions or comments, you can contact the webmaster at richard.scaricaciottoli@us.army.mil

PICTURE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by:
CSM Horace Pysher



When I Come Home!

by Sgt. Michelle Lynn - Charlie Med

These words have passed through the lips of every Soldier within the 2/28 Brigade Combat Team. What follows are hopes, expectations, dreams, desires, prayers and longing. Upon Charlie Meds arrival into Kuwait, Soldiers were met with intense heat, long days of sleep and long nights of hard work to prepare for the missions ahead. Convoys were being planned, flights were being arranged and Soldiers adjusted to the daily changes that determined their next engagements.

In the last two weeks, Charlie Med has faced those challenges and daily changes which brought them here to Ar Ramadi. Soldiers of Charlie Med watched with stilled breath as a handful of their men mounted up-armored vehicles to convoy to Ar Ramadi. The rest of the group waited for itineraries that would take them to Taqaddum and then to Ar Ramadi. Boarding the C-130 in full battle rattle to head up North,



Spc. Amy Torres(right), a resident of Tower City, Pa., and Spc. Kim LaCrosse, a resident of Tamaqua, Pa., proudly display the guidon for C-Co 228th FSB a medical Company from Allentown, Pa., on the morning of July 8, 2005. Torres, LaCrosse, and the rest of the Iron Soldiers from C-Med had their duffel bags packed and were ready to head north to Iraq, to begin their mission in support of "Operation Iraqi Freedom."

Photo By Capt. Alfred A. Smith

I observed young Soldiers absorbing the burden of their responsibilities.

Finally arriving, the Soldiers had a mix of released anxiety and genuine apprehension. For the past 6 months, anticipation was the driving force that prepared Charlie Med for combat readiness.

Now Charlie Med has a new driving force that gives them the power to be combat effective – determination. Physician assistants, nurses, medics, specialty personnel and Headquarters personnel successfully complete the company we call Charlie Med.

Now Charlie Med has a new driving force that gives them the power to be combat effective – determination.

Every Soldier that comes through Charlie Med's treatment facility will experience combat stress and vulnerable emotions that he shares with his brethren. Fortunately there is always an optimistic glimpse that we all share knowingly. This glimpse is when each Soldier begins a thought with "When I come home..."

FROM THE CHAPLAIN



Maj. Peter Lawson
Brigade Chaplain

"Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there." Psalm 139: 7-8

With these words, the psalmist is telling us something remarkable about God. Wherever we go and whatever it is that we do, we cannot free ourselves from God's presence. God is in the heights, God is in the depths (Sheol was the place of the dead). Even though God is infinite and beyond us, God is at the same time present with us. The same God who created the heavens and the earth, and who set the stars and the moon in the sky by night, and the sun by day, is the same God who knows, "when I sit down and when I rise up; and discerns all our thoughts." (Psalm 139:2). It's a comforting thought to know that God is present in this deployment, even as we have traveled this great distance to a foreign and hostile land. God is not bound by any location.

Yet, we have to admit, there are times when God seems anything but present. There are times when we seek and God does not appear to be found, when we knock and the door does not seem to open, when we ask, and all we hear is silence. Also, when you consider the troubling events which keep unfolding in the region we now occupy, it seems to give us all the more reason to wonder where God is.

Perhaps one of the reasons we miss God's presence is because we have not sharpened our senses so that we can know the presence of the One in our midst. One way to sharpen these senses is through worship, personal devotion, and the sacraments. Or, it could be we need to push aside the clutter and the clamor of our lives which tend to overwhelm the voice of the divine within or about us. There is truth to the words of God spoken through the psalmist, when he says, "Be still and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). Know also that God often speaks to us through the words and actions of other people, meaning, God brings certain people into our lives so that we can experience the grace of God through them. God uses people as God's instruments of grace and mercy.

So, if you're looking for the presence of God during our deployment, don't stand looking up in the sky; instead, look around you and look within you because God is there as well. May we all draw strength from the God who is with us in all circumstances.

Chaplain (MAJ) Peter Lawson, 2/28th BCT Chaplain

The Iron Soldier is a publication of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 28th Infantry Division (M). It is produced by the Public Affairs Office of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team

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1st Lt. James Belprez

HISTORY OF THE BRIGADE

KEYSTONE DEDICATION

by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciottoli - 2nd Brigade Public Affairs

With the surrender of Germany in 1945, the 28th Infantry Division headed back to the United States. They were sent to Camp Shelby, MS to begin amphibious training so that the Division would be ready to help with the inevitable invasion of Japan.

When the Soldiers of the 28th arrived in the States they were all granted 30 days leave to enjoy time with their friends and families. While on leave the cities of Nagasaki and Hiroshima were hit with nuclear bombs causing Japan to surrender before any invasion. This historic event drastically changed the future for the men and women of the 28th.

Upon returning from leave back to Shelby, the Soldiers began their transition back to civilian life. Instead of learning how to storm beachheads, the Soldiers of the 28th received training and counseling on how to become civilians again. There were a lot of sports activities and social events, to include day trips to New Orleans and Baton Rouge. These activities were designed to reintroduce the weary vets to their own country.

Fast forward to modern day and Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade from the 28th ID who find themselves at Shelby again. Now the train-

ing is designed to fight a war. It is interesting to think that the 2BCT is picking up exactly where the Division left off 60 years ago, almost to the day.

After the sendoff party on June 22, 2005 a small ceremony was held at the site of the former Division headquarters just outside of the east gate of Camp Shelby.

The area underwent extensive cleaning, making it easy imagine things as they were 60 years ago. A small fountain in the middle of the area remains the most visible symbol of the lands history.

Representatives from the Division, to include The Adjutant General of the Pennsylvania National Guard, Major General Jessica L. Wright, and current Division commander Major General Wesley Craig along with 2

WWII veterans General Kafkalas and Major General O'Neal, were on hand to dedicate the spot as an historic landmark.

"We will preserve this land for the rest of time," said Col. Stricklen, the current commander of Camp Shelby.

The site is now permanently marked by a large keystone with the words "HEADQUARTERS 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION 29 AUG 1945 - 13 DEC 1945."



Former 28th Division Commanders and World War II veterans, Maj. Gen. O'Neal (left) and Gen. Kafkalas (right) pose in front of the former headquarters of the 28th I.D.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Rich Scariaciottoli

Have a story or picture for the Iron Soldiers?



Contributions from all Soldiers throughout the 2nd Brigade Combat Team are encouraged for consideration. Please enclose a detailed description of the people (name, rank and unit) and subject matter for each story and photo. Include your name, unit and contact information.

Contact your unit Public Affairs Rep located on the left side of this page or send an email to

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